

Foreign Policy -- Defense -- Documents on the web -- February 2011

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GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS:

The White House: Remarks

Please find below the link to Remarks and Statements by President Obama and other White House Officials:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-and-remarks http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-and-releases

Department of State: Remarks

Please find below the link to Remarks by the Secretary of State Clinton and other Department of State Officials:

http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/index.htm

Key U.S. Government Reports

FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES IN THE FY2011 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUDGET

Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State. Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. Washington D.C. January 24, 2011. http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/02/137256.htm

ASIA-PACIFIC U.S. MILITARY OVERVIEW: FOREIGN PRESS CENTER BRIEFING WITH ADMIRAL ROBERT WILLARD, COMMANDER, U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND

With Admiral Robert Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command. February 18, 2011. http://www.pacom.mil/web/Site_Pages/Media/News_2011/02/18-Asia-Pacific-US-military-overview.shtml

STATE DEPARTMENT FY 2012 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY BUDGET

Department of State. February 14, 2011. 178 pages. http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/156214.pdf

2010 YEAR IN REVIEW: CONFLICT PREVENTION AND STABILIZATION OPERATIONS

Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization. Department of State. February 9, 2011. 24 pages.

http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/156036.pdf http://www.state.gov/s/crs/rls/156230.htm

THE NATIONAL MILITARY STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – 2011: REDIFINING AMERICA'S MILITARY LEADERSHIP

Joint Chiefs of Staff. February 8, 2011. 24 pages. http://www.jcs.mil//content/files/2011-02/020811084800 2011 NMS - 08 FEB 2011.pdf

SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION (SIGIR) - QUARTERLY REPORT AND SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, JANUARY 2011

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S 2011 FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES

By Mike Hammer, National Security Council Spokesman. January 27, 2011. http://fpc.state.gov/155514.htm

U.S. Government Accountability Office:

TACTICAL AIRCRAFT: AIR FORCE FIGHTER REPORTS GENERALLY ADDRESSED CONGRESSIONAL MANDATES, BUT REFLECTED DATED PLANS AND GUIDANCE, AND LIMITED ANALYSES

U.S. Government Accountability Office. February 24, 2011. 13 pages. http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11323r.pdf

DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S REPORT TO CONGRESS AND U.S. OVERSIGHT OF CIVILIAN ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN CAN BE FURTHER ENHANCED

U.S. Government Accountability Office. Report to Congressional Committees. February 17, 2011. 21 pages.

http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11310r.pdf

NUCLEAR WEAPONS: NNSA NEEDS MORE COMPREHENSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKFORCE DATA TO IMPROVE ENTERPRISE DECISION-MAKING

U.S. Government Accountability Office. Report to Congressional Committees. February 14, 2011. 33 pages.

http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11188.pdf

MILITARY PERSONNEL: DOD ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN BUT OPPORTUNITIES EXIST TO ENHANCE THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR ARMY MEDICAL PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

U.S. Government Accountability Office. Report to Congressional Committees. February 10, 2011. 38 pages.

http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11163.pdf

DEFENSE MANAGEMENT: ADDITIONAL COST INFORMATION AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT NEEDED TO ASSESS MILITARY POSTURE IN EUROPE

U.S. Government Accountability Office. Report to Congressional Requesters. February 3, 2011. 41 pages.

http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11131.pdf

AFGHANISTAN SECURITY: AFGHAN ARMY GROWING, BUT ADDITIONAL TRAINERS NEEDED; LONG-TERM COSTS NOT DETERMINED

U.S. Government Accountability Office. Report to Congressional Addressees. January 27, 2011. 54 pages.

http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d1166.pdf

BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE: DOD NEEDS TO ADDRESS PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES FOR FUTURE CAPABILITIES IN EUROPE

U.S. Government Accountability Office. Report to Congressional Addressees. January 26, 2011. 62 pages.

http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11220.pdf

DEFENSE BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION: DOD NEEDS TO TAKE ADDITIONAL ACTIONS TO FURTHER DEFINE KEY MANAGEMENT ROLES, DEVELOP MEASURABLE GOALS, AND ALIGN PLANNING EFFORTS

U.S. Government Accountability Office. Report to Congressional Committees. January 26, 2011. 55 pages.

http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11181r.pdf

Congressional Research Service

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BAHRAIN: REFORM, SECURITY, AND U.S. POLICY

By Kenneth Katzman. Congressional Research Service. February 18, 2011. 20 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/157345.pdf

LIBYA: BACKGROUND AND U.S. RELATIONS

By Christopher M. Blanchard, Jim Zanotti. Congressional Research Service. February 18, 2011. 45 pages.

http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/157348.pdf

IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM: TEHRAN'S COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

By Paul K. Kerr. Congressional Research Service. February 15, 2011. 18 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/157346.pdf

IRAN: U.S. CONCERNS AND POLICY RESPONSES

By Kenneth Katzman. Congressional Research Service. February 14, 2011. 72 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/157347.pdf

ISRAEL: BACKGROUND AND U.S. RELATIONS

By Casey L. Addis. Congressional Research Service. February 14, 2011. 43 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/157349.pdf

AFRICA: U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ISSUES

By Ted Dagne. Congressional Research Service. February 11, 2011. 14 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/157114.pdf

CLOSING THE GUANTANAMO DETENTION CENTER: LEGAL ISSUES

By Michael John Garcia, Jennifer K. Elsea, R. Chuck Mason, Edward C. Liu. Congressional Research Service. February 11, 2011. 55 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/157116.pdf

EGYPT: THE JANUARY 25 REVOLUTION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

By Jeremy M. Sharp. Congressional Research Service. February 11, 2011. 39 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/157112.pdf

IMPLICATIONS OF EGYPT'S TURMOIL ON GLOBAL OIL AND NATURAL GAS SUPPLY

By Michael Ratner. Congressional Research Service. February 11, 2011. 9 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/157109.pdf

INTELLIGENCE ISSUES FOR CONGRESS

By Richard A. Best Jr. Congressional Research Service. February 11, 2011. 30 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/157115.pdf

INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID: U.S. AND OTHER DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

By Charles E. Hanrahan, Carol Canada. Congressional Research Service. February 11, 2011. 13 pages.

http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/157100.pdf

AFGHANISTAN: POLITICS, ELECTIONS, AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

By Kenneth Katzman. Congressional Research Service. February 10, 2011. 58 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/157075.pdf

ALGERIA: CURRENT ISSUES

By Alexis Arieff. Congressional Research Service. February 10, 2011. 20 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/157074.pdf

FOREIGN AID: AN INTRODUCTION TO U.S. PROGRAMS AND POLICY

By Curt Tarnoff, Marian Leonardo Lawson. Congressional Research Service. February 10, 2011. 37 pages.

http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/157097.pdf

TAIWAN: MAJOR U.S. ARMS SALES SINCE 1990

By Shirley A. Kan. Congressional Research Service. February 10, 2011. 71 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/157077.pdf

TAJIKISTAN: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND U.S. INTERESTS

By Jim Nichol. Congressional Research Service. February 10, 2011. 14 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/157096.pdf

KUWAIT: SECURITY, REFORM, AND U.S. POLICY

By Kenneth Katzman. Congressional Research Service. February 8, 2011. 18 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156957.pdf

NONPROLIFERATION AND THREAT REDUCTION ASSISTANCE: U.S. PROGRAMS IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

By Amy F. Woolf. Congressional Research Service. February 4, 2011. 65 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156526.pdf

AFGHANISTAN CASUALTIES: MILITARY FORCES AND CIVILIANS

By Susan G. Chesser. Congressional Research Service. February 3, 2011. 6 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156522.pdf

CHINA NAVAL MODERNIZATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. NAVY CAPABILITIES--BACKGROUND AND ISSUES FOR CONGRESS

By Ronald O'Rourke. Congressional Research Service. February 3, 2011. 103 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156520.pdf

CHINA AND PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND MISSILES: POLICY ISSUES

By Shirley A. Kan. Congressional Research Service. February 3, 2011. 77 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156523.pdf

IRAN SANCTIONS

By Kenneth Katzman. Congressional Research Service. February 3, 2011. 64 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156527.pdf

YEMEN: BACKGROUND AND U.S. RELATIONS

By Jeremy M. Sharp. Congressional Research Service. February 3, 2011. 46 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156516.pdf

JORDAN: BACKGROUND AND U.S. RELATIONS

By Jeremy M. Sharp. Congressional Research Service. February 2, 2011. 30 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156512.pdf

NONSTRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS

By Amy F. Woolf. Congressional Research Service. February 2, 2011. 36 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156513.pdf

BELARUS: BACKGROUND AND U.S. POLICY CONCERNS

By Steven Woehrel. Congressional Research Service. February 1, 2011. 17 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156507.pdf

LEBANON: BACKGROUND AND U.S. RELATIONS

By Casey L. Addis. Congressional Research Service. February 1, 2011. 28 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156510.pdf

RUSSIAN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SECURITY ISSUES AND U.S. INTERESTS

By Jim Nichol. Congressional Research Service. February 1, 2011. 63 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156500.pdf

THE NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER (NCTC)--RESPONSIBILITIES AND POTENTIAL CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS

By Richard A. Best Jr. Congressional Research Service. February 1, 2011. 13 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156509.pdf

AFGHANISTAN: POST-TALIBAN GOVERNANCE, SECURITY, AND U.S. POLICY

By Kenneth Katzman. Congressional Research Service. January 26, 2011. 96 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156544.pdf

THE NEW START TREATY: CENTRAL LIMITS AND KEY PROVISIONS

By Amy F. Woolf. Congressional Research Service. January 26, 2011. 35 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156545.pdf

U.S.-MEXICAN SECURITY COOPERATION: THE MÉRIDA INITIATIVE AND BEYOND

By Clare Ribando Seelke, Kristin M. Finklea. Congressional Research Service. January 26, 2011. 40 pages.

http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156546.pdf

AL QAEDA AND AFFILIATES: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE, GLOBAL PRESENCE, AND IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. POLICY

By John Rollins. Congressional Research Service. January 25, 2011. 36 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/156542.pdf

INTELLIGENCE ISSUES FOR CONGRESS

By Richard A. Best Jr. Congressional Research Service. January 20, 2011. 30 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/155579.pdf

PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI)

By Mary Beth Nikitin. Congressional Research Service. January 18, 2011. 14 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/155563.pdf

NAVY IRREGULAR WARFARE AND COUNTERTERRORISM OPERATIONS: BACKGROUND AND ISSUES FOR CONGRESS

By Ronald O'Rourke. Congressional Research Service. January 14, 2011. 32 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/155630.pdf

GUANTANAMO DETENTION CENTER: LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY IN THE 111TH CONGRESS

By Michael John Garcia. Congressional Research Service. January 13, 2011. 26 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/155622.pdf

PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS: PROLIFERATION AND SECURITY ISSUES

By Paul K. Kerr, Mary Beth Nikitin. Congressional Research Service. January 13, 2011. 27 pages.

http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/155624.pdf

NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES: A PRIMER

By Paul K. Kerr, Mary Beth Nikitin. Congressional Research Service. January 11, 2011. 9 pages.

http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/155617.pdf

U.S.-RUSSIAN CIVILIAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT: ISSUES FOR CONGRESSBy Mary Beth Nikitin. Congressional Research Service. January 11, 2011. 15 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/155591.pdf

INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES: HOW USEFUL TO CONGRESS?

By Richard A. Best Jr.. Congressional Research Service. January 6, 2011. 17 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/155045.pdf

STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT (SOFA): WHAT IS IT, AND HOW HAS IT BEEN UTILIZED? By R. Chuck Mason. Congressional Research Service. January 5, 2011. 34 pages. http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/155050.pdf

THINK TANKS AND RESEARCH CENTERS:

The opinions expressed in these publications do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.

AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

DANGERS IN U.S.-PAKISTAN RIFT

By Jayshree Bajoria. Council on Foreign Relations. February 17, 2011. http://www.cfr.org/pakistan/dangers-us-pakistan-rift/p24140

The diplomatic spat between the United States and Pakistan over U.S. Embassy employee Raymond Davis's arrest by Pakistani authorities on murder charges has led to Washington postponing high-level talks with Pakistani and Afghan officials. This U.S.-Pakistan dispute comes at a time when Pakistan is increasingly challenged by growing violence, a teetering economy, political factionalism, large numbers of displaced people from last year's floods, high rates of inflation and unemployment, and widespread corruption. Strained relations with Islamabad add to problems the United States already faces in trying to ensure stability in Pakistan--a nuclear-armed country crucial to the ongoing war in Afghanistan and U.S. national security interests.

MARC GROSSMAN INHERITS THE WORST JOB IN THE WORLD FROM RICHARD HOLBROOKE By Bruce Riedel. The Brookings Institution. February 15, 2011. http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0215 grossman afghanistan riedel.aspx Marc Grossman, a veteran American diplomat called out of retirement, is about to take over one of toughest jobs in U.S. foreign policy--special representative for Afghanistan and

Pakistan. Grossman's challenge will be particularly difficult on Pakistan, where a dispute over the diplomatic status of Raymond Davis, an American official accused of two murders by the Pakistani police, threatens to undo two years of patient efforts by the Obama team to build a strategic relationship with the most dangerous country in the world. High-level talks have been suspended and President Obama's planned visit to Pakistan is in jeopardy. The Hill is calling for aid cuts. Unless Grossman can get the bilateral engagement back on track, Pakistan could be heading for even more troubled days ahead.

OUTLINING A STRATEGY FOR PEACE: ASSESSING THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

By Caroline Wadhams. Center for American Progress. January 21, 2011. http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/01/afghanistan_sotu.html

The State of the Union offers President Obama an important opportunity to assess the past year's strategy in Afghanistan and to offer a clear roadmap for his agenda in Afghanistan and the region to a broader American audience. In its December strategic review, the administration committed itself to a "political resolution" of the conflict and pledged to intensify "regional diplomacy to enable a political process," including Afghan-led reconciliation. President Obama should provide greater detail on these components of U.S. strategy.

DEFINING SUCCESS IN AFGHANISTAN

By Frederick W. Kagan. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. January 7, 2011. 40 pages.

http://www.aei.org/docLib/DefiningSuccessinAfghanistanElectronicVersion.pdf
Success in Afghanistan is the establishment of a political order, security situation, and indigenous security force that is stable, viable, enduring, and able--with greatly reduced international support--to prevent Afghanistan from being a safe haven for international terrorists. The current American and Coalition strategy is making progress and should be continued. This paper is thus primarily a report on the current situation in Afghanistan and a consideration of some of the prospects and challenges ahead. Its principal recommendation is that the U.S. and its allies should continue to resource and sustain the strategy now being executed, which is the only approach that can secure their vital national security interests in Afghanistan.

ASIA

SEVEN GUIDELINES FOR U.S. CENTRAL ASIA POLICY

By Evan A. Feigenbaum. Council on Foreign Relations. February 22, 2011. http://blogs.cfr.org/asia/2011/02/22/seven-guidelines-for-u-s-central-asia-policy/ a new report from the bipartisan Central Asia Study Group, chaired by former Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage and issued by the Project 2049 Institute, offers an action agenda aimed at creating a more effective and enduring partnership between the United States and the nations of Central Asia. I was the principal author of the report. But the paper is a consensus document that reflects discussion, debate, and, ultimately, broad

agreement among a distinguished group of former senior U.S. diplomatic and defense officials with responsibility for, or interest in, Central Asia. The report does a lot of things. But one central element is its attempt to offer any U.S. administration seven broad guidelines for U.S. policy in the region.

INDONESIA'S LESSONS FOR EGYPT

By Karen Brooks. Council on Foreign Relations. February 17, 2011. http://www.cfr.org/indonesia/indonesias-lessons-egypt/p24156

Policymakers and pundits have looked around the world at previous revolutions--in Iran, Russia, Turkey, and more--to gauge the possibilities and pitfalls ahead as Egyptians overturn their political order. The White House, however, has paid particular attention to the experience of one: Indonesia.

AFTER THE U.S.-CHINA SUMMIT: THE ONUS ON THE TWO KOREAS

By Ho-Jin Lee. The Brookings Institution. January 24, 2011. http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2011/0124 korea lee.aspx

The summit between U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao on January 19 was a significant beginning to the year 2011 in the field of international relations, and for the sake of the global economy, environment, and security. The North Korea conundrum was high on the agenda of the summit talks, and whether the two leaders might come to any agreement -- given the sharp contrast between the two powers' respective responses to the slew of dangerous North Korean military provocations in 2010 -- drew keen attention from both government officials and outside observers.

HU JINTAO'S VISIT AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA: "WHOSE/HU'S CORE INTERESTS?"

By Ernest Z. Bower. Center for Strategic and International Studies. January 11, 2011. http://csis.org/publication/hu-jintaos-visit-and-south-china-sea-whosehus-core-interests Understanding what China wants to be in Asia and globally is a foundational question for U.S. policymakers. It is a question shared by our treaty allies in Asia -- Australia, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and Thailand -- as well as the rest of Southeast Asia. Hu Jintao's visit to Washington next week will be an opportunity to look for clues to be used in solving that puzzle. A key piece will be the South China Sea.

DEFENSE

RETAINING F-22A TOOLING

By John C. Graser, Kevin Brancato, Guy Weichenberg, Soumen Saha, Akilah Wallace. RAND Corporation. February 21, 2011. 55 pages.

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/technical_reports/2011/RAND_TR831.pdf
The last F-22A aircraft is scheduled for delivery in early 2012, so decisions must be made as to what tooling will be retained and what will be disposed of. The authors find that, for a modest, one-time additional cost of \$17 million and a very small additional annual recurring

cost, the Air Force can retain all F-22A unique government tools. They also find a difference of less than \$1 billion between the costs of two different restart options.

ON DEFENSE, WHAT TEA PARTY GETS RIGHT

By Michael E. O'Hanlon. The Brookings Institution. February 18, 2011. http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0218_defense_ohanlon.aspx

Defense Secretary Robert Gates's 2012 budget proposal includes a plan to cut the base, or peacetime, defense budget in real terms by mid-decade. But the secretary rightly warned against a bidding war to cut military spending by an arbitrarily big number in an effort to reduce the deficit. Right now, the nation is at war, the economy still needs major stimulus, and there is no consensus on cutting the rest of the federal budget. This is no moment for big reductions.

THE WAR WITHIN: PREVENTING SUICIDE IN THE U.S. MILITARY

By Rajeev Ramchand, Joie Acosta, Rachel M. Burns, Lisa H. Jaycox, Christopher G. Pernin. RAND Corporation. February 17, 2011. 229 pages.

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2011/RAND MG953.pdf

The increase in suicides among military personnel has raised concern. This book reviews the current evidence on suicide epidemiology in the military, identifies state-of-the-art suicide-prevention programs, describes and catalogs suicide-prevention activities in the U.S. Department of Defense and across each service, and recommends ways to ensure that the activities in DoD and across each service reflect state-of-the-art prevention science.

SCALE BACK THE DEFENSE BUDGET: THREE GOALS FOR DEFENSE BUDGET SAVINGS

By Lawrence J. Korb, Laura Conley. Center for American Progress. January 21, 2011. http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/01/defense-budget-sotu.html
Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced in January that the Pentagon will reduce projected defense spending over the next four years by \$78 billion. The projected savings will come from pursuing a number of savings and efficiencies initiatives to halt wasteful and unnecessary spending, including cancelling or slowing down programs that are not performing as needed. Although Gates's plan only slows down the rise of projected spending, rather than producing a much-needed reduction in the budget topline, President Obama should build on the momentum of the secretary's announcement in his State of the Union address. In particular, the president should use this opportunity to announce three budget-saving goals.

WHY DEFENSE CUTS CAN BE GOOD FOR AMERICA

By Michael E. O'Hanlon. The Brookings Institution. January 18, 2011.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0118 defense budget ohanlon.aspx

As deficit reduction returns to the forefront of the American political agenda, the question of whether the Pentagon should contribute proportionately to any major budget-reduction exercise has rattled the cages of official Washington. The issue is not what should happen

this year so much as in 2013 and beyond, once the recession ends and the wars abroad decline in scale. The case for selective defense reductions is in fact strong -- but not, as many defense critics argue, due to Pentagon waste or imperial overreach. Cutting defense will in fact add modest risk to our short-term security. But to shore up the economic foundations of our long-term security, such cuts deserve serious consideration for the simple reason that the alternatives are worse.

DIPLOMACY

THE ROLE AND RELEVANCE OF MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

By Brett Schaefer. The Heritage Foundation. February 14, 2011.

http://www.heritage.org/Research/Lecture/2011/02/The-Role-and-Relevance-of-Multilateral-Diplomacy-in-US-Foreign-Policy

Multilateral diplomacy is challenging. The dynamics are often more complex than bilateral negotiations because there are many more players. But while policies and venues may change, the role of diplomacy is constant and does not change when the diplomacy is multilateral rather than bilateral. A diplomat at the United Nations is expected to rally support for U.S. policy and positions just as he or she would at an embassy in Britain or Botswana. To maximize its efforts, the United States needs to reassess its strategy and figure out how to focus on the battles that really matter. In addition, Congress and the Administration need to take a fresh look at the U.N. system and ask fundamental questions about how to reduce budgets, eliminate extraneous or unnecessary activities, and increase accountability. Experience has shown that diplomacy alone is not sufficient to achieve support for reform.

UNITED NATIONS: URGENT PROBLEMS THAT NEED CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

By Brett Schaefer. The Heritage Foundation. February 3, 2011.

http://www.heritage.org/Research/Lecture/2011/02/United-Nations-Urgent-Problems-That-Need-Congressional-Action

The United Nations has largely failed to maintain international peace and security, promote self-determination and basic human rights, and protect fundamental freedoms. While the conflicting interests of member states have led to many of these failures, the U.N. system itself is partly to blame. The U.N. and its affiliated organizations are plagued by outdated and redundant missions and mandates, poor management, ineffectual oversight, and a general lack of accountability. In recent years, the U.S. Congress itself has neglected its responsibility to exercise proper oversight. Congress should press for U.N. reform and withhold funding when necessary to encourage reform.

INTERNATIONAL AID

AIDING DEVELOPMENT: ASSISTANCE REFORM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

By Kemal Derviş, Homi Kharas, Noam Unger. The Brookings Institution. February 2, 2011. 44 pages.

http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Files/rc/reports/2011/02_aiding_development/02_aiding_development.pdf

Global development assistance efforts are experiencing a critical moment of change. This moment is not a week or month but a several-year period in which political scales are tipping, rationales and underlying assumptions are being reexamined, and new systems and approaches are emerging. Collectively, the public and private institutions involved are working around the world to alleviate poverty and human suffering, support equitable economic growth, foster better governance, promote global public health, prevent conflict, and strengthen the resilience of communities vulnerable to external shocks. The solutions to these problems require major shifts in the international dialogue on development and aid, followed by key architectural and operational changes across a wide range of actors. Large donors like the United States must lead by modeling and implementing fundamental reforms.

IRAN

CONTAINING A NUCLEAR IRAN: DIFFICULT, COSTLY, AND DANGEROUS

By Theodore Bromund and James Phillips. The Heritage Foundation. February 14, 2011. http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2011/02/Containing-a-Nuclear-Iran-Difficult-Costly-and-Dangerous

Proponents of a containment policy toward Iran are ignoring the harsh realities inherent in seriously pursuing such a policy. First, the U.S. has been trying to contain Iran since the Iranian revolution in 1979, with little success. If Iran develops a nuclear weapon, it will become even more difficult to contain. A serious containment policy will require the U.S. to maintain a credible threat of force against Iran. This will be even more difficult if Iran goes nuclear because the U.S. will have lost credibility. A containment policy will also require the U.S. to support the undemocratic governments in the countries neighboring Iran, which will pose many political dilemmas. Instead of pursuing a policy of containment, which would be a policy in name only, the U.S. should keep the military option alive, defend itself and its allies, and seek both to weaken the regime's economic base and to empower and encourage its domestic adversaries.

THE NEXT SUPREME LEADER: SUCCESSION IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

By Alireza Nader, David E. Thaler, S. R. Bohandy. RAND Corporation. 2011. 125 pages. http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2011/RAND_MG1052.pdf
As the commander in chief and highest political authority in Iran, the current Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has played a critical role in the direction of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This has never been more true than during the tumultuous 2009 presidential elections, the outcome of which was determined by Khamenei's decisive support of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. As Khamenei ages and rumors of his ill health intensify, U.S. policymakers and analysts need to consider the various scenarios for succession. The eventual outcome -- what the office of the Supreme Leader looks like in Khamenei's wake -- will determine the Islamic Republic's direction.

IRAQ

IRAQ: PATTERNS OF VIOLENCE, CASUALTY TRENDS AND EMERGING SECURITY THREATS

By Anthony H. Cordesman. Center for Strategic and International Studies. February 10, 2011. 92 pages.

http://csis.org/files/publication/110209 Iraq-PattofViolence.pdf

Unless major changes take place in U.S. and Iraqi policy, American combat forces will withdraw from Iraq at the end of this year. The Iraq War will not come to an end with this withdrawal, any more than it did when the U.S. withdrew from Iraqi cities and formally ended combat operations early in the summer of 2010. Extremist attacks will probably continue for at least several years, and there are still serious risks of new outbreaks of sectarian and ethnic conflict.

LATIN AMERICA

U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS: MOVING POLICY FORWARD IN 2011 AND BEYOND

Event with former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, Stephen Propst, Patrick Kilbride. The Brookings Institution. February 15, 2011. 3 pages.

http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Files/events/2011/0215_cuba/20110215_cuba.pdf
In January the Obama administration announced much anticipated new rules liberalizing
people-to-people exchanges with Cuba. Policymakers, stakeholders and observers are
anxious to see what impact renewed contacts between the two countries will have on the
overall U.S.-Cuba relationship. From human rights and migration to deep-sea drilling and
economic reforms, the bilateral agenda promises to be fraught with tensions and mixed
signals. Will the Obama administration use its executive authority to extend engagement to
new areas like trade, telecommunications and energy? Or will political sensitivities on both
sides of the Florida straits continue to limit the pace of change?

TURMOIL IN NORTH AFRICA -- CONTAGION IN THE AMERICAS?

By Stephen Johnson. Center for Strategic and International Studies. February 9, 2011. http://csis.org/publication/turmoil-north-africa-contagion-americas

As the so-called January 14 Jasmine Revolution inspires protests in Egypt and other nearby states, it may be worth recalling that North Africa is not the only part of the world clamoring for more representative, accountable government. Despite the current trend toward liberal democracy and open markets, the Americas still have a few regimes that frustrate the political and economic desires of their constituents and do little to attack corruption or reduce income inequality between the rich and poor. While major discontent seems to be in abeyance in the Western Hemisphere, the conditions that feed it are still active in some quarters.

SHIFTING SANDS: MIDDLE EASTERN REVOLUTIONS AND REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The Saban Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings hosted a discussion of the developments in Egypt and the broader implications of the current crisis in the Middle East. Panelists included Shibley Telhami, Dalia Mogahed, Ibrahim Sharqieh, Kenneth Pollack. The Brookings Institution. February 9, 2011. 47 pages.

http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Files/events/2011/0209 mideast revolutions/201102 09 mideast revolutions.pdf

As the world witnesses the nascent revolution in Egypt, many wonder what implications these events hold for the larger Middle East and for broader U.S. foreign policy in the region. Regardless of how this crisis is eventually resolved, the United States now faces many difficult questions as it seeks to reorient strategic regional policies. Will other U.S. allies in the Middle East and Gulf also face political uprisings? How will these events affect the Arab-Israeli peace process or the struggle against al-Qaeda?

HOW THE U.S. CAN BACK MIDEAST REFORM

By Marwan Muasher. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. February 9, 2011. http://carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=42564
Washington was caught unprepared by the unrest in the Arab world. While Arab leaders are trying to clamp down on domestic unrest, it's essential to realize that business can't continue as usual. The United States is now playing catch-up, reacting to developments. But it needs to get ahead of the curve in the region and help support the moves toward much-needed democratic reforms.

EGYPT, ISRAEL, AND THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

By Jerry Weinberger. The American, the Journal of the American Enterprise Institute. February 8, 2011.

http://www.american.com/archive/2011/february/egypt-israel-and-the-muslim-brotherhood

As chaos envelops Egypt and threatens the wider Middle East, an emerging divide exists among some thoughtful observers as to how far events will be shaped by the Muslim Brotherhood. In a liberalized political order, should one come about, the Brotherhood will have a role to play. Some observers fear this more than others, and how scared they are (or are not) depends to some extent on how scared they are for Israel, how skeptical they are about democratic state-building, or both.

FIVE STEPS TO MEETING THE CRISIS IN EGYPT AND THE MIDDLE EAST

By James Phillips and James Carafano. The Heritage Foundation. February 3, 2011. http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2011/02/Five-Steps-to-Meeting-the-Crisis-in-Egypt-and-the-Middle-East

While all eyes are on the political violence in Egypt, the Obama Administration has labored in crisis mode, struggling to stay ahead of the rapidly moving events. By exercising energetic leadership now and continuing to engage in the right way in the months ahead, the President can both protect U.S. interests and promote opportunities for liberty, security,

and economic opportunity in the region. These actions would be far more likely to make a positive contribution than trying to appear relevant to the struggle for power in the streets of Cairo.

THE CONFLICTS IN YEMEN AND U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY

By W. Andrew Terrill. U.S. Army War College. Strategic Studies Institute. January 27, 2011. 120 pages.

http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/download.cfm?q=1040

Yemen is not currently a failed state, but it is experiencing huge political and economic problems that can have a direct impact on U.S. interests in the region. All of these problems are difficult to address because the central government has only limited capacity to extend its influence into tribal areas beyond the capital and major cities. The United States must therefore do what it can to support peaceful resolutions of Yemen's problems with the Houthis and Southern Movement while continuing to assist the government's struggle against al-Qaeda forces in Yemen. It must further pursue these policies in ways that avoid provoking a backlash among the Yemeni population which will not tolerate significant numbers of U.S. combat troops in Yemen.

NUCLEAR

BEYOND SYMBOLISM? THE U.S. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AGENDA AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR CHINESE AND INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY

By Lavina Lee. CATO Institute. February 8, 2011. 12 pages. http://www.cato.org/pubs/fpbriefs/fpb91.pdf

The Obama administration has elevated nuclear disarmament to the center of its nuclear agenda through the New START Treaty with Russia and the release of the U.S. Nuclear Posture Review (NPR). The administration also expects that its professed goal of "getting to zero" has symbolic value and will encourage reciprocity in terms of disarmament and nuclear arms control by other nuclear weapons states, as well as cooperation on measures to limit nuclear proliferation and the threat of nuclear terrorism. In the case of the two rising powers of Asia -- China and India -- it is highly questionable whether either of these expectations will be met.

HOW TO KEEP THE NUCLEAR GENIE IN THE BOTTLE

By Richard Weitz. Yale Global. Yale Center for the Study of Globalization. January 19, 2011. http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/how-keep-nuclear-genie-bottle

Following a series of agreements with the U.S., Russia and former Soviet states, the global stockpile of nuclear warheads has dropped from 70,000 to 22,000 since 1987, reports the World Nuclear Association. Unsecured stockpiles remain a target for smugglers and terrorists, notes Richard Weitz of the Hudson Institute. The U.S. and other nuclear states work in an international partnership to secure both civilian and military stockpiles, monitoring ports and other transportation networks, Weitz explains, but gaps persist.

TERRORISM - COUNTERTERRORISM

EARLY OBSERVATIONS ON POSSIBLE DEFENSES BY THE EMERGING THREAT AGENT PROJECT

By Bruce W. Bennett, Jonathan Kaufman, James Byrnes, Pamela L. Gordon, McRae Smith. RAND Corporation. January 2011. 25 pages.

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/occasional_papers/2011/RAND_OP290.pdf The Defense Department is concerned about emerging chemical and biological (CB) weapon agents and the ability of U.S. defenses to counter them. Due to scientific advances that facilitate the development of new and novel CB agents and the fact that uncovering such work will be a difficult intelligence challenge, the Emerging Threat Agent Project (ETAP) undertook a study to examine the challenges of emerging CB agents and propose measures to reduce their risks.

THE TENTH YEAR: A BRIEFING ON TERRORISM ISSUES TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE 112TH CONGRESS

By Brian Michael Jenkins. RAND Corporation. 2011. 15 pages. http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/corporate_pubs/2011/RAND_CP625.pdf
The United States has not experienced another major terrorist attack since September 11, 2001, which many had feared. However, few in 2001 would have imagined that, ten years later, the United States would still be threatened by the same jihadist terrorist enterprise. Its effort to defeat and dismantle this global network while protecting itself against further attacks has become its longest campaign. On January 8, 2011, Brian Michael Jenkins briefed newly elected members of Congress on a spectrum of foreign policy, national security, and domestic issues, with a particular focus on domestic terrorism prevention and transportation security in the post-9/11 era.

Previous issues of Foreign Policy -- Defense -- Documents on the Web are available at: http://france.usembassy.gov/web-alert.html